



A plan comes together!

This is the last of three newsletters being produced during the preparation of the Scottsdale Trails Master Plan. We have come a long way...

- ❖ A **vision, goals and objectives** have been identified that will help guide the trail system's implementation
- ❖ Staff and the public understand the **specific ingredients** that create a “great trail”
- ❖ Scottsdale **citizens were actively involved** in crafting the plan at **nine separate focus groups, workshops and open houses**
- ❖ We've received valuable input from the **Transportation Commission, Preserve Commission, Planning Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission**
- ❖ Every likely trail corridor in Scottsdale (approx. 283 miles) has been evaluated using an **extensive GIS database**
- ❖ **Four classifications of trails** have been developed providing trail opportunities close to home and connections to City landmarks, businesses, schools, parks and open spaces
- ❖ **Landmark Trails** are proposed that will foster Scottsdale's image as a “Trail City”
- ❖ **Revised trail standards** have been recommended that correspond directly to the proposed trail classifications
- ❖ Citizens helped create a process to determine **which trails projects should be done first**, second, etc.
- ❖ **Many potential projects** have been **identified, evaluated, prioritized and costed**

This newsletter provides highlights of the draft plan as well as results of key meetings that have taken place since Newsletter #2.

Did you know... *there is a national movement spearheaded by the Centers for Disease Control to improve people's health by getting them outside and walking?*

Results of open house #2

In October more than 75 people attended an open house at the Via Linda Senior Center to view the draft trails master plan and concept plans for specific neighborhoods. Comments and suggestions around specific trail corridors, intersections and trail issues were received. Residents of the Pinnacle Vista III subdivision were opposed to the continuation of a Secondary Trail along either the Dobson Wash or Church Rd. corridors in their area. Other comments included support for project goals and giving higher consideration to safety enhancements and completion of existing unfinished projects.

Upcoming open house for Desert Foothills area...

Focus on neighborhood trails

Throughout the planning process, the team has focused on developing a *city-wide trails plan* and a *neighborhood trails feasibility study*. The planning process has however, progressed to the point that the team can expand the feasibility study to include specific plan recommendations for neighborhood trails. Residents are invited to a special open house to provide comment on the Neighborhood Trails Plan.

When: Thursday, January 9th, 2003, 7 to 8 pm

**Where: Room #2 at Horizon Community Center
15440 N. 100th Street**

Staff contact: Scott Hamilton, Trails Planner at (480) 312-7722 or shamilton@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

Our Vision remains...

This functional network of non-motorized, unpaved, multi-use trails will create journeys of discovery linking local and regional places while connecting to the greater transportation network.

The creation of these trails will serve both recreation and transportation needs providing a safe and enjoyable experience for all trail users. The trail network will be responsive to the public, promoting a healthful outdoor lifestyle resulting in more trail users and advocates.

This trail network will link people to place, enhancing Scottsdale's economy, culture and quality of life.

PLAN ELEMENT: Trail Classifications

With over 200 miles of trails in the citywide trail system, it is necessary to organize them in a way that reflects the variety of functions that the trails serve, based on their use and location within the larger trail system. Just like the street system, with freeways, major arterials, and local collector streets, the trail system, too, has been organized into a hierarchy ranging from major (those with a regional significance) to very minor and localized. We have classified these trails into four categories; Primary, Secondary, Local, and Neighborhood trails.

Primary or Landmark Trail

These trails have a regional significance, such as a trail leading from city to city, or into the Preserve or the Tonto National Forest.

Secondary Trail

This classification has the most trail miles. At just under 100 miles, these trails feed into the larger Primary Trail network.

Local Trail

The purpose of these trails is to connect local destinations and neighborhoods to the Secondary Trails, which in turn, feed into the Primary Trails.

Neighborhood Trail

The neighborhood trail is very limited in range and serves a localized area, providing near to home trail opportunities.

Additionally, the plan identifies some areas where new non-paved trail construction is not possible, yet the connection remains important. These routes are designated as "Paved Connections" which provide links between the more isolated southern portions of the city with the areas in central Scottsdale that have greater trail opportunities.

There are two primary purposes for classifying the trails into different categories; 1) to provide structure to the many miles of trails in such a way that recognizes differing levels and types of use as well as a variety of destinations and, 2) the trail classification is the basis for proposed new trail standards. (see below) For example, a regional trail in a scenic corridor will have a different trail standard than a neighborhood trail. By organizing the Master Plan trails in this way, we are able to take a very complex system of trails and define it in a way which will ultimately result in a logical, useful and more manageable trail system.

Project evaluation process...

Public ranks criteria used to decide trail project priorities

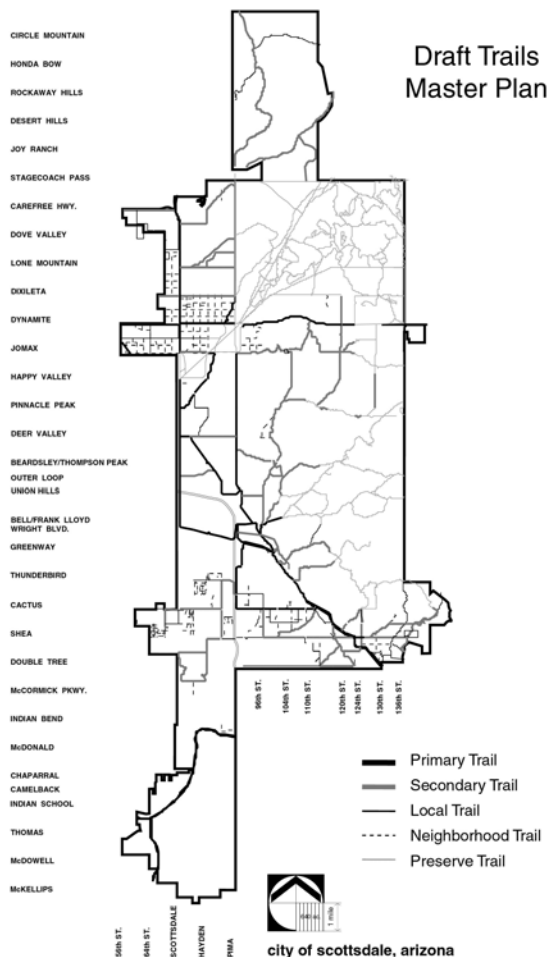
Interested members of the community had several opportunities to participate in the crafting and review of the draft trails plan this fall. In September, the public reviewed conceptual neighborhood trail layouts and a draft trails map for citywide trail corridors. They also participated in a session where they helped develop project prioritization criteria which will help the city determine the order in which projects are built. The following is the results of this prioritization process:

| <u>Criteria</u> | <u>Best Case Scenario</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Safety</i>• <i>Completion</i>• <i>Connection</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project corrects a problem on an existing trail• Completes an existing unfinished project along a Primary Trail corridor• Project provides a critical connection opportunity (only route available) |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is along a corridor of higher trail suitability |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gap | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project completes a gap providing a significant usable and continuous trail corridor. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is along a corridor with heavy existing or potential use. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project greatly improves access to a neighborhood, community or regional destination. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landmark | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project enhances a Landmark (Primary) Trail. |

The project team is using these criteria to prioritize an exhaustive list of potential trail projects throughout Scottsdale. The following sampling of project types is taken from the top ranked projects:

- ❖ **Underpasses** for safety at major street crossings
- ❖ **Completion of gaps** between existing projects
- ❖ **Signage** on otherwise completed trails
- ❖ Demonstration projects for **improved equestrian street crossings**
- ❖ **Landmark Trail** development in scenic corridors
- ❖ **Fixing problems** on otherwise completed trails
- ❖ **Easement acquisition** to complete gaps and/or improve safety



City commissions provide valuable comments

Preserve The draft trails plan was presented to the Commission on November 7th. The Commission supported the plan but voted to delete all trail classifications except “preserve trails” within the preserve. The Commission stressed the need for improved signalized or grade separated crossings at or near trail entrances into the preserve. Members also stressed something already in the plan; to keep trails out of the bottoms of washes where possible.

Transportation The Commission heard a presentation on November 20th. Several key transportation coordination issues were stressed that the plan will address: street cross-section modifications accommodating trails as currently discussed in the Streets Master Plan revision; Capital Improvement Project coordination on street projects with trails i.e., 96th Street and Cactus Rd.; and demonstration projects at key intersections to improve equestrian crossing capabilities. The Commission supported the plan and urged further coordination with Transportation Department staff.

Planning The draft plan was presented to the Commission on November 21. As in earlier Commission meetings, street cross-sections that accommodate trails were a primary issue as well as improved street crossings. Recommendations were made for trail signage on neighborhood trails. A follow-up presentation is scheduled for December 11.

PLAN ELEMENT: Trail Standards

| <u>Trail Classification</u> | <u>Standard Tread Width</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Primary Trail | |
| ❖ <i>Built Environment:</i> Canal banks, power line corridors, scenic corridors, standard roadside, built open space, drainage corridors | 8' width |
| ❖ <i>Natural Environment:</i> Washes, natural open space | 4' width |
| Secondary Trail | |
| ❖ <i>Built And Natural Environment:</i> Scenic corridor segments, standard roadside, washes, natural and built open space, drainage corridors, alleyways/non-street easements, power line corridors | 4' width |
| Local and Neighborhood Trail | |
| ❖ <i>Built Environment:</i> Roadside, alleyways/non-street easements, built open space, drainage corridors | 4' width |
| ❖ <i>Natural Environment:</i> Washes, natural open space | 2'-4' width |

PLAN ELEMENT: Highlights

- ❖ Landmark Trails
- ❖ Grade-separated & enhanced crossings
- ❖ Preserve, regional & neighborhood connections
- ❖ Strengthened equestrian neighborhoods
- ❖ Policies, programs & projects action items
- ❖ Extensive GIS trail status data base
- ❖ Improved planning, development & maintenance procedures
- ❖ Funding alternatives
- ❖ Prioritized project list w/associated costs

Final public input & information opportunities:

- ❖ ***Final Open House for the neighborhood trails plan on Thursday, January 9th, 7-8 pm, Horizon Community Center, Room #2 15440 N. 100th St.***

Special focus on the Desert Foothills Area

- ❖ ***Parks and Recreation Commission - Study Session, Wed., February 5th, 4pm, Mountain View Community Center, 8625 E. Mtn. View***
- ❖ ***Parks and Recreation Commission - Approval, Wed., February 19th, 5pm, City Hall Kiva, 3939 Drinkwater Blvd.***
- ❖ ***City Council - Review and approval, March. TBA.***
- ❖ ***Call (480) 312-7722 for up-to-date information on meeting dates, times and locations.***

Do you want to be on Scottsdale's Trail mailing/email lists?

If you did not receive this newsletter in the mail and would like to receive future updates on the City's trails, please send an email to shamilton@ci.scottsdale.az.us or call Scott Hamilton @ 480-312-7722.

Visit our Website: www.scottsdaleAZ.gov/trails/plan

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🧠 FUNCTION

🧠 IMPLEMENTATION

🧠 DISCOVERY & EXPERIENCE

🧠 EDUCATION & AWARENESS



Scottsdale Trails Master Plan

On the Right Trail

Newsletter #3, December 2002